

REMARKS

The present application was filed on July 10, 2003 with claims 1 through 21. Claims 1-21 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 10-13 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Applicant acknowledges that while claims 10-13 have been withdrawn from consideration, as noted above, these claims are still pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Silverman [PNAS; April 24, 2001; volume 98, pages 4996-5001] (hereinafter referred to as "Silverman"). In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Silverman in view of Michaud [USPAT 4,017,721].

The comments of the Examiner in forming the objection and rejections are acknowledged and have been carefully considered.

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Section 102(b) rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Silverman because the article "describes how to calculate moments of tertiary protein structures." See Office Action, page 4. Also, the Examiner stated on
10 page 4 of the Office Action that "[i]n equation [13] on page 4998 of Silverman, a first order hydrophobicity moment imbalance about the entire protein is written, accounting for hydrophobicity and solvent accessible surface area."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Silverman reference does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. In response to the above-noted
15 statement by the Examiner, Applicant asserts that equation [13] of the Silverman reference while incorporating solvent-accessible surface area in a general fashion, the Silverman reference does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1 because the Silverman reference does not teach or suggest the step of enhancing correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility within
20 the context of a global linear hydrophobic moment. The discussion of any first order

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection on the grounds that the proposed combination of Silverman and Michaud is improper, and even if the combination were proper, all the limitations of the independent claims are not taught or supported by the combination. Specifically, Michaud does not teach or suggest a system or apparatus for calculating a centroid of residue centroids, as taught in independent claims 14 and 21. Michaud discloses the use of a centroid of the outline of the figure for positioning (see, e.g., Abstract; column 4, lines 29-32). The present invention claims the calculation of "a centroid of the residue centroids." Page 5, line 5, of the specification. Given the fact that Michaud is directed to an electro-optical system, and the present invention is directed to calculating a moment of a tertiary protein structure, Michaud cannot be interpreted as teaching or suggesting a system to calculate a centroid that is equivalent in any respect to that of the present invention.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). As documented above, Silverman does not teach or suggest the claim limitation of enhancing correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility, and as illustrated above, Michaud does not teach or suggest a computer apparatus or programmable media for performing the step of calculating a centroid of residue centroids. Therefore, all of the claimed limitations of claims 14 and 21 are not taught or suggested by the prior art, and as a result, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 14 and 21 overcome the rejection as allegedly unpatentable over Silverman in view of Michaud.

Also, Applicant further submits that by virtue of their dependence on allowable independent claim 14, claims 15-20 recite patentable subject matter in their own right. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

All of the pending claims, i.e., Claims 1-21, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

5 The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kevin M. Mason
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 36,597
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
15 (203) 255-6560